



Montana Drought Advisory Committee



Montana Agricultural
Statistics Service

Peggy Stringer
Director

August 2, 2006

Hot, dry weather increased crop maturity

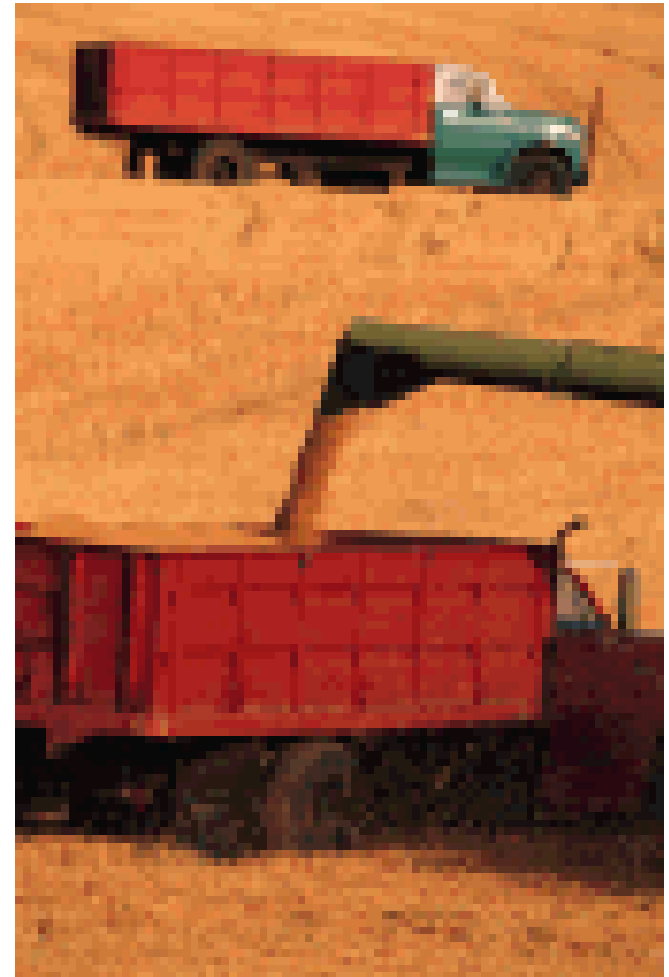


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**July 1 forecast
indicates**

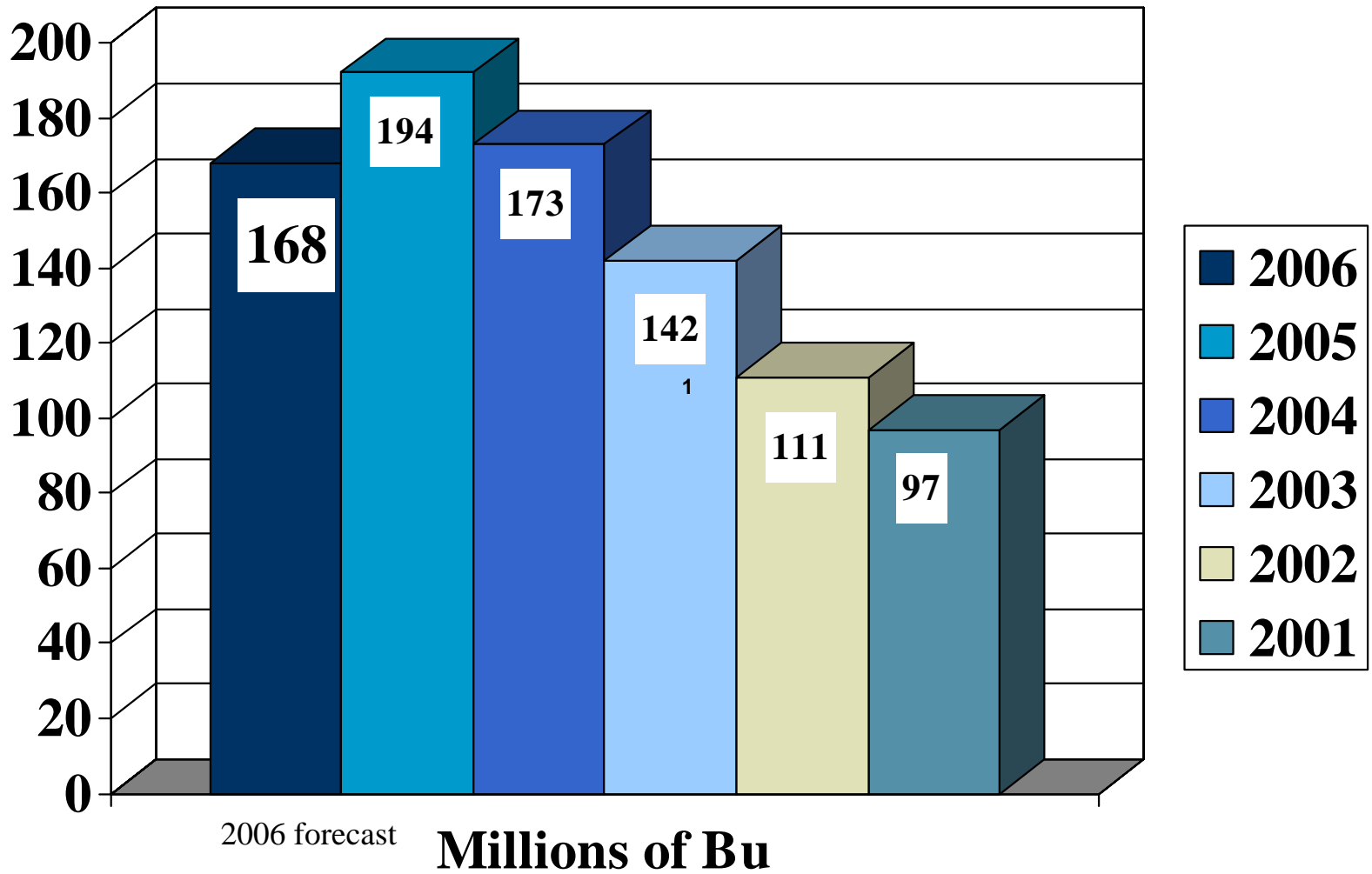
**All Wheat production
is down 13% from
last year**

**Winter wheat
production is down
17% from last year**



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All Wheat Production 2006-2001



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Winter Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



Harvested acreage

- 1.95 million acres
- Down 150,000 acres from last year

**Crop development well ahead of
normal**

**Harvest underway with 47% complete
for the week ending July 23**

Winter Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



Production

- 78.0 million bu
- Down 17% from last year

Yield

- 2006 yield forecast 40.0 bu ac
 - 1 bu higher than June 1, 2006 forecast
 - Down 5 bu from last year's record yield
 - 4.8 bu higher than 10-year average

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Winter Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



On July 1 indications point to a
good winter wheat crop

August 1 Forecast August 11

Final winter wheat estimates

*Small grains summary released
September 29*

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Spring Planted Crops

- Spring grains stressed due to dry, hot, windy conditions.
- Wheat progress way ahead of last year



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Spring Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



Planted acreage

- 2.9 million acres
- Up 300,000 acres from last year

Harvested acreage

- 2.85 million acres
- Up 300,000 acres from last year

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Spring Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



Production

- 79.8 million bu
- Down 2% from last year

Yield

- 28.0 bu per ac
- 4.0 bu less than last year
- 1.3 bu higher than the 10-year average

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Durum Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



Planted acreage

- 400,000 acres
- Down 190,000 acres from last year

Harvested acreage

- 395,000 acres
- Down 32% from last year

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Durum Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



Production

- 9.9 million bu
- Down 40% from last year

Yield

- 25.0 bu per ac
- Down 3 bu from last year

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Barley July 1 Production Forecast



Planted acreage

- 800,000 acres
- Down 100,000 acres from last year

Harvested acreage

- 640,000 acres
- Down 60,000 acres from last year

Barley July 1 Production Forecast



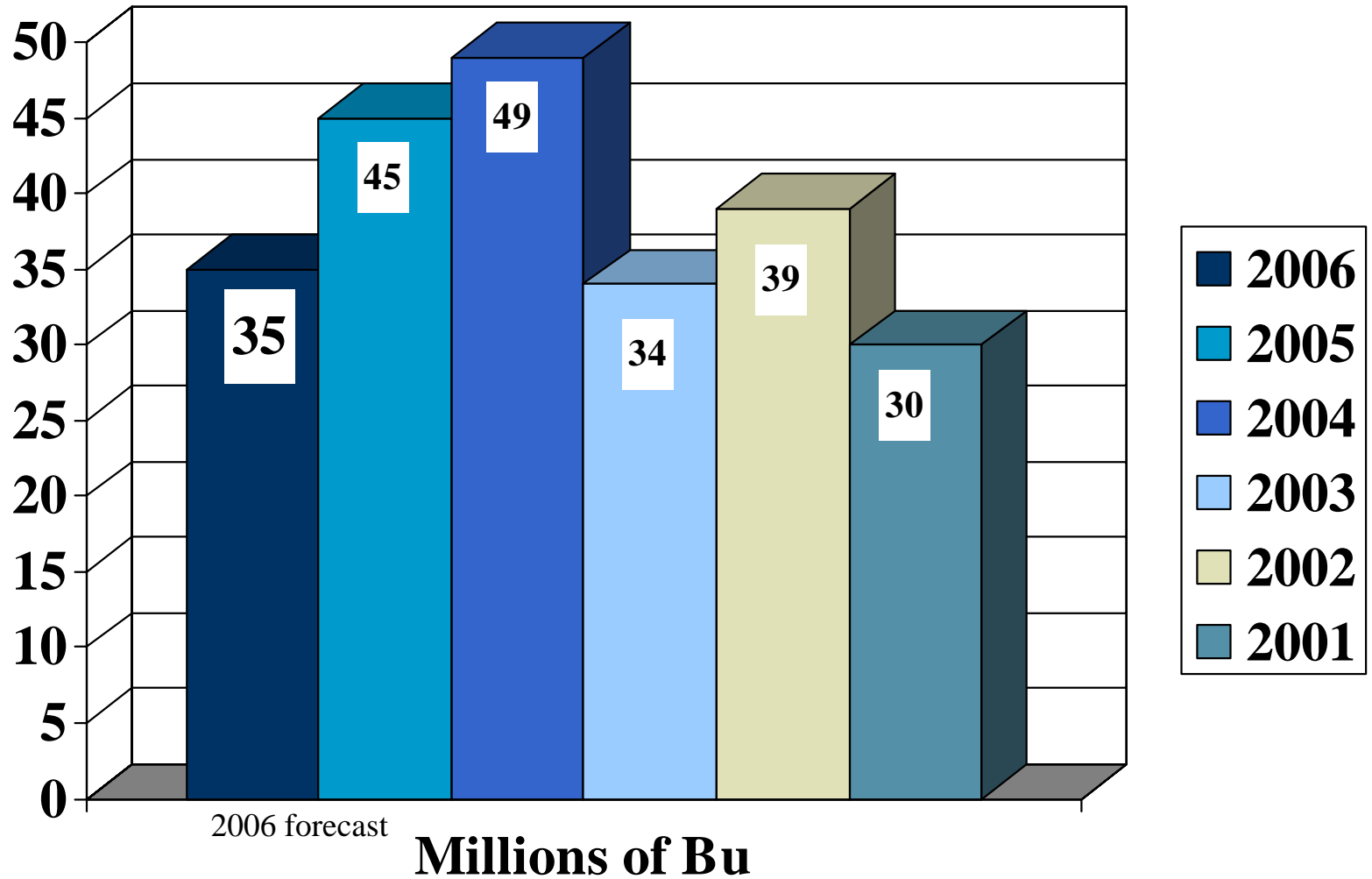
Production

- 35.2 million bu
- Compared with 39.2 million bu last year

Yield

- 55.0 bu per ac
- 1 bu less than last year
- 7.8 bu higher than the 10-year average

Barley Production 2006-2001



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Topsoil Moisture Behind Last Year and 5-Year Avg.



<i>July 23, 2006</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short - short	85%	86%	52%	63%
Adequate	14%	14%	46%	35%
Surplus	1%	0%	2%	2%

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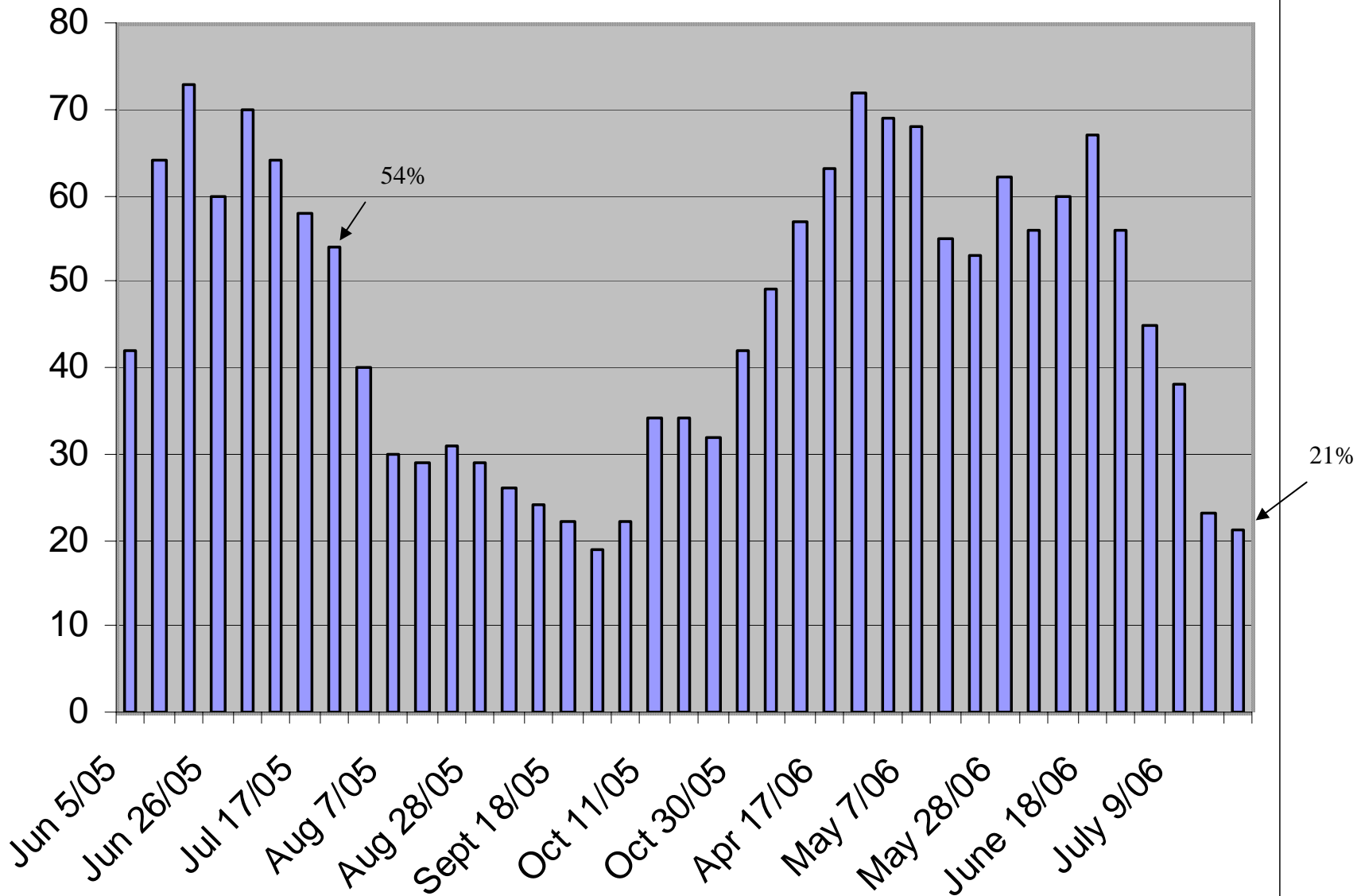
Subsoil Moisture Behind Last Year & 5-Year Avg.



<i>July 23, 2006</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short – short	79%	77%	46%	68%
Adequate	21%	23%	53%	32%
Surplus	0%	0%	1%	%

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Montana Weekly Subsoil Moisture Percent Adequate and Surplus



Crop Weather Report

Week Ending July 23, 2006



- Hot, dry, windy weather stressed spring seeded crops
- Spring wheat, durum wheat, and oats were almost done heading
- Winter wheat harvest well ahead of last year and the five-year average

August 2, 2006

Winter Wheat Crop Condition Behind Last Year but Ahead of Five-Year Average



	Very poor- Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>July 23, 2006</i>				
This week	9%	32%	41%	18%
Last week	6%	39%	41%	14%
Last year	4%	18%	46%	32%
5-yr avg.	27%	28%	33%	12%

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Winter Wheat Progress Well Ahead Last Yr and 5 Yr Avg



<i>July 23, 2006</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr avg
Winter wheat Harvested	47%	16%	4%	10%

2003- 43%

1988- 58%

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2003 & 1988 Final Yields



Final Yields per ac	Winter wheat	Spring Wheat	Barley
2003	37	22	40
1988	19	12	24

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Spring Wheat Crop Condition Well Behind Last Yr & 5-Yr Avg



<i>July 23, 2006</i>	Very poor-Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	31%	40%	28%	1%
Last week	23%	43%	30%	4%
Last year	5%	20%	59%	16%
5-yr avg	20%	28%	43%	9%

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Crop Progress Percent



<i>July 23, 2006</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr avg
Spring wheat				
headed	98%	94%	94%	93%
turning	71%	38%	44%	41%
Barley				
headed	86%	76%	94%	93%
turning	54%	26%	43%	43%

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Barley Crop Condition Behind Last Year but Nearly Same as 5-Yr Avg.



<i>July 23, 2006</i>	Very poor- Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	21%	28%	43%	8%
Last week	13%	40%	36%	11%
Last year	7%	27%	50%	16%
5-yr avg	20%	31%	39%	10%

August 2, 2006

Last weeks hot weather spurred hay harvesting



<i>July 23, 2006</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr ave
Alfalfa hay First cutting	99%	93%	92%	93%
Other hay First cutting	95%	86%	84%	80%

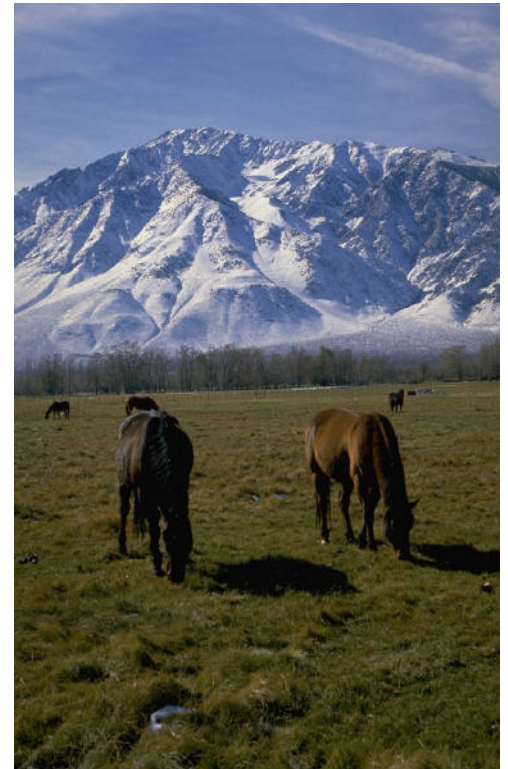
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Livestock Grazing

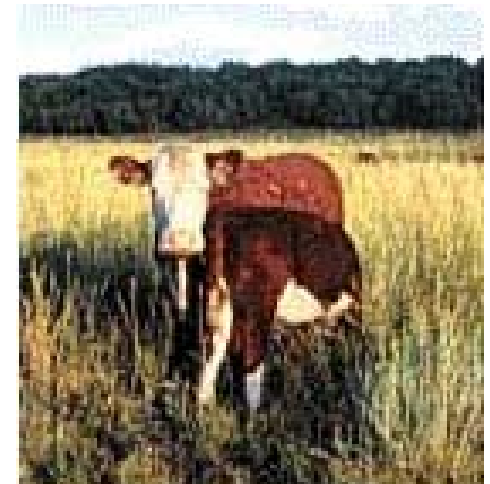
- Range and pasture feed condition behind last year but nearly same as 5-year average



August 2, 2006



Range & Pasture Condition



<i>July 26, 2006</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr avg
Very poor-poor	29%	23%	11%	35%
Fair	37%	41%	27%	33%
Good	29%	30%	48%	26%
Excellent	5%	6%	14%	6%

August 2, 2006

To Sum It Up

Toole County- “I lowered both my crop condition and yield this week as the relentless heat turns our crops way too fast. The last summer I remember that was this hot was in 1985.”

Chouteau County - “it was 105 degrees. ... The hot and dry weather is still burning up the spring crops. Looks like some barley will be ready to harvest about the first of August and the spring wheat will be soon after that. Then I guess we will know just how bad this hot, dry weather has hurt the spring crops.”

Roosevelt County - “Hot and dry again this week. Wheat is turning or burning up, depending on stage.”

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To Sum It Up



- Winter wheat crop harvest way ahead
- Hot, windy & dry has ripened crops quickly reducing yield potential for spring seeded grains
- August 1 Forecast August 11
- Final small grains production September 29
- Fire activity is a concern in most areas of state & some operators are delaying harvest

August 2, 2006